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Services Division

Satellite Committee

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At the meeting on 13 February 1957, [REDACTED], A/P, discussed the findings of his recently completed study on the "Redefection-Repatriation Campaign of the Soviet Bloc, 1955-56." Despite the major effort conducted through press and radio, government and party apparatus, and the exploitation of familial relationships of Soviet Bloc Governments, only 6,000 post-World War II defectors at most returned from the West to the Soviet Bloc. This constitutes only a fraction of a percent of the 1,200,000 refugees and defectors from the Soviet Bloc moved overseas in the post-war period. The 3,300 returnees to the Soviet Union primarily from Argentina were pre-World War II migrants and family members.

Numerically more important than redefections from the West, have been the repatriations from the Soviet Union to Poland, Rumania, and - prior to the 23 October uprising - to Hungary. In line with the changed Polish-Soviet power relationships, the tempo of repatriations increased rapidly, and by mid-December 29,000 of 31,000 returnees from all sources during 1956 had come from the USSR.

The redefection campaign may have accelerated the splintering of emigre circles in the West, but it has had an insignificant impact on the Soviet Bloc labor force even if all 6,000 returnees had been skilled technicians.

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At the meeting on 20 February, [REDACTED] of the EUSATS Acquisition Branch of the CIA Library will discuss with the committee, the publication procurement effort of his branch, and how it can better serve the needs of consumers.

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